

**From:** Terry Frederick  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

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I own a small computer consulting firm in Kansas, and most of my business is derived from developing software that runs on Microsoft operating systems. I have developed software for over 30 years, and from my experience, Microsoft's programming environment for third party development on their operating system is the most flexible and has the most features of any operating system ever built. Microsoft is also one of the least expensive environments for developing third party software. The cost of development tools and libraries is well within the reach of any small business that desires to create new software that will run on Microsoft's operating systems. The main reason I chose to specialize in Microsoft development was due to the great depth of resources and capabilities that are available for software development at a reasonable price.

My business has suffered recently, but not from actions by Microsoft. I am constantly competing with an attitude from potential customers that believe that Microsoft is a bad or criminal company and that they should not develop software on Microsoft's operating system and support a bad company. My customers look at this case, and read the negative comments about Microsoft in the news, and often select non-Microsoft environments for their software development. This courts actions, and the length of time that these proceedings are taking are creating fodder for damage to Microsoft's reputation. The Microsoft competitors that are supporting these court actions against Microsoft are generating propaganda that takes advantage of the fact that Microsoft is being tried for illegal activities.

I have spent years training to become proficient in Microsoft development, and I do not have the resources to train and support programmers in all of the other areas of software development. The longer this case goes on, the more damage will be done to Microsoft's reputation, and to my businesses ability to get new work.

Please end this case. Microsoft's competitors created this case to use the resources of the Federal court system to damage Microsoft. In fact that is what is happening, and will continue to happen as long as this case continues. As you damage Microsoft, and Microsoft's reputation, you are damaging thousands of other companies that have built their business around Microsoft products. Please end this, now.